

URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1937.



TO THE
Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the
URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you this, my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1937.

The year has seen, during October, the death of Dr. W. L. Bentley, your esteemed Medical Officer for so many years. In taking over his duties in a temporary capacity until his successor is appointed, I feel that the change is coincident with a great increase of interest in Public Health matters, fostered by the Ministry of Health.

Changes are imminent in the staffing and administration of your Health Department, which is going to assume ever-increasing importance in the life of the District.

This year it is an Ordinary Report as distinguished from a Survey Report.


I thank the Ladies' Committee for their great help in the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Also I thank the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector, Nurse, and all the other Officials for their co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. LINDSAY, M.D.,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30105985>

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1937.

1—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	2,149
Population (Census 1931)	16,689
Registrar-General's Estimated resident population 1937 ...	15,650
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	4,370
End of 1937, according to the Rate books.....	4,750
Rateable value £80,439.	

Sum represented by a penny rate.....£315.

2—VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate ...	207	107	100
Illegitimate	9	6	3
Total	216	113	103
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population... .. 13·8			
Still Births	8	7	1
Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 35			
Deaths	244	123	121
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... †15·5			
Deaths from Puerperal causes—			
Puerperal sepsis	nil		
*Other puerperal causes	2		
Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 8·92			
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	46		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	43		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	22		
„ „ Measles (all ages)	nil		
* „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1		
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	nil		
Population 15,650.			

* Not notified before death.

ROYTON	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Per 1,000 Births		
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year
					Live Births	Live & Still Births	
Mean of 5 years— 1932 to 1936.....	12·7	14·2	0·58	1·54	8·04	7·64	87
1936... ..	11·6	14·5	0·43	1·63	10·75	10·30	59
1937... ..	13·8	†15·5	0·76	1·40	9·25	8·92	46
Increase or decrease in 1937 on Five years' average, 1932-1936	+ 1·1	+ 1·3	+ 0·18	— 0·14	+ 1·21	+ 1·28	— 41
Previous year	+ 2·2	+ 1·0	+ 0·33	— 0·23	— 1·50	— 1·38	— 13

† 1937 adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor 1·16) = 17·9 per 1,000.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1937.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths	HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all ages.	YEARS													Total Cases removed to Hospital from Home	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District.	
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over				
(a)	(a)													(b)	(c)	(d)	
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	26	...	...	1	2	3	9	9	...	2	...	...	...	...	6	...
Diphtheria(including Membranous Croup).	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	7	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...
Acute Influenzal Paeumonia ..	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	3	1	5	2	2
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	* }	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	1	...	...	...
Malaria { Contract'd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ In this Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abroad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district e.g. :—																	
Chicken-pox ...	161	...	9	10	9	21	100	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease Anthrax ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	212	4	9	11	11	25	110	19	4	6	1	8	4	8	9	2	

* Deaths classified together as Puerperal Sepsis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
35—45	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	2	...	...	...
55--65	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	4	1	...	...
65 and upwards				...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals	...			12	6	4	2	10	1	0	1
				18		6		11		1	

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	...	1	...	...	NIL

Analysis of Nett Deaths according to age, year ended Dec. 31st, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	9	10
Diabetes	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage... ..	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	15
Heart Disease	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	25	58
Arterio-sclerosis	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	1	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Diseases of the Liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
Puerperal causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Prematurity	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Pregnancy	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Senility	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other deaths from Violence	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	23	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	239	9	...	2	2	...	1	...	3	11	11	75	125

INFANTILE DEATHS AND CAUSES.
Under one year.

CAUSES OF DEATH					Under 1 Week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Atalectasis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Rickets...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals					4	1	...	1	6	2	...	1	...	9

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

- (1) Tuberculosis.—Sanatorium and Hospital accommodation is provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity cases are admitted to the Boundary Park Hospital, Oldham.
- (3) Children.—Are admitted to the Oldham Royal Infirmary, Manchester Children's Hospital, and Norden and Biddulph Homes.
- (4) Fever.—Oldham Corporation Hospital, Westhulme.
- (5) Smallpox.—Chadderton, Royton and Crompton (Joint Hospital) at Racefield, Chadderton.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) Infectious Cases :—Ambulance from the Health Department of Oldham and neighbouring Councils.
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases :—By Motor Ambulance Housed at the Oldham Fire Station.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the District Council, with accommodation at the Free Library, Rochdale Road.

A School Clinic is provided for minor ailments, dental and ophthalmic cases.

The Lancashire County Council has made arrangements for the treatment of Tuberculosis. Venereal Diseases are treated at the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

- (a) General—The Royton District Nursing Association provides two Nurses. This Association is supported by voluntary contributions under a “ Home Provident Scheme.”
- (b) Cases where isolation is impossible are removed to hospital often at the expense of the Local Authority. The cases at home are generally nursed by the relatives.

Midwives :—

Number on the Register	2
Number Practising	2

No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

From 1st August, 1938, Mrs. A. Costello was appointed Resident District Midwife under the Lancashire County Council.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological work and analysis of water are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Town Hall, and supplied in cases of emergency to Medical Practitioners in this district upon request.

Specimens examined : Throat swabs 62.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—W. L. BENTLEY, L.S.A. (part time).
Died 5th October, 1937.
JAS. LINDSAY, M.D. (Acting).

Veterinary Inspector—R. HERBERT, Esq., M.R.C.V.S. (part time).

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. J. BUTTERFIELD (whole time).

Health VISITOR—Miss E. BRACEGIRDLE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(whole time).
To 12th May, 1937.
Mrs. JANET FOSTER. From 25th May, 1937.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of Adoption Acts, Bye-Laws and local regulations relating to the public health, in force in the district, with date of adoption.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

From 1st October, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

From 1st October, 1891.

The Baths and Wash houses Act, 1846 to 1899.

Adopted 6th November, 1907.

The Notification of Births Acts, 1907.

From 1st September, 1915.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Part (2) Streets and Buildings.

(3) Sanitary Provisions.

(4) Infectious Diseases.

(5) Common Lodging Houses.

(6) Recreation Grounds.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	106
(i) By the Local Authority...	...	40
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	66

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	40
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	135
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	135
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	1
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	nil

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	nil
--	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 8
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 70
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 70
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 424
- (b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year nil
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 132
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 847½

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :

Standard generally good.

Prevalent type of house—4-roomed cottage property in rows.

Approximate number of back to back houses in the
district... .. 130

Proposing to build about 160 houses. 152 at present for clearances.

Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations 27

Action taken during the year regarding Clearance Areas :

No. of areas represented 3, comprising 11 houses.

No. of areas cleared 5, comprising 54 houses.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants 40.

2. Sufficiency of supply of Houses.

(a) Extent of shortage, if any, of houses available at reasonable rents, and the measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage

Shortage is gradually being relieved.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The area of Royton is 2,149 acres, the population in 1931 (Census) 16,689 and the estimated population at the middle of 1937 was 15,650, and the number of houses on the Rate Books at December 31st, 1937, was 4,750.

4,700 houses have a direct and constant supply of water from the Oldham Corporation Waterworks and about 50 houses in the outlying parts of Royton are dependent on wells for water.

During the last few years Royton has greatly changed. Cotton Street, Downing Street, Mill Street and Seminary Street have been demolished, and Jubilee Gardens, Royley Crescent and Springhill have arisen, whilst Boothfields, Booth Hill Lane, Grimbies, Edge Lane and Sarah Moor have given place to Hamilton Avenue and Stottfield. This is the result of slum clearance.

Whilst this has been going on, private enterprise has not been slack, and Loughrigg, Mardale and Rydal Avenues have been built in Thornham Ward, and Broadway, Norwood Avenue and Oaklands Road have arisen in Dryclough Ward. Much building has also been done in the Heyside Ward on Blackshaw Lane, Higginshaw Lane and Shaw Road, and additions have been made in Dogford Ward at Highbarn Street, Milton Street and Radcliffe Street.

The District with the exception of Thorp is very well sewered and the sewage effluent has been continuously satisfactory for several years.

The regular inspection of the Royton Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1937, has revealed the following nuisances or defects, which have been reported month by month to the Council.

They may be summarised as follows :—

Choked Closet Drains	19
Other Choked Drainage	14
Burst Water Pipes	9
Defective Gutters and Spoutings	7
Dampness in Houses	12
Other defects and Nuisances	21
Defective and worn-out ashpans	132

214

To secure the remedy of these defects, 55 letters, 100 formal notices and 12 statutory notices were served upon the Owners or Agents and 204 defects were remedied.

The Infectious Diseases notified during the year were as follows :—

Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	7
Scarlet Fever.....	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	9
Other forms of Pneumonia	7
Chicken Pox.....	161
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
	<hr/>
	236

These were visited, disinfectants supplied and upon recovery 115 Rooms in 62 places were disinfected with sulphur or Formhaldehyde.

The Collection of House Refuse continues to be done by the Council's workmen with regularity and efficiency, 58 loads weighing about 69 tons being collected weekly and approximating near 3593 tons annually, which is disposed of by a system of controlled tipping at the Dogford Road and Heyside tips.

The offal is collected twice a week amounting to 120 tons per annum and which is conveyed to and destroyed at Rochdale.

The Sanitary Conveniences are as follows :—Water Closets 3,900, Waste-water Closets 944, Cesspools 4, Privies 2, Pail Closets 45, Ashbins 3,950 and Ashpits 26.

The number of new houses built and completed during 1937 was 106, 40 by the Council and 66 by private enterprise. 132 houses have been decrowded during the year and 70 houses have been demolished at Sarah Moor, Booth Hill Lane, Grimbies, Boothfields, Holdenfold, Haggate, Brook Street and Seminary Street.

The number of houses gassed during the year was 49, and 160 rooms, also 49 van loads of furniture and 51 loads of bedding.

The four lodging houses have been visited frequently and found fairly clean.

The Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Winding Mills number 31. and have been visited 66 times. Defects were noted at 4 places, namely, want of cleanliness, which were remedied and one of insufficient ventilation of closet passage. This place is now unoccupied.

Other factories and workshops number 38, and have been visited 62 times and found in order.

The Bakehouses have been visited 86 times. They are 47 in number and continue to be kept clean and satisfactory.

Altogether there are 116 places and these have been visited 214 times and with the exception of the 4 cases named found satisfactory.

The Slaughter houses number 10. I have made 346 visits during the year and Mr. Herbert, M.R.C.V.S., has visited them weekly at irregular intervals. They are fairly well kept. There have been 3 cows, 2 parts and 2 pigs weighing altogether 22 cwts. condemned, surrendered and destroyed during the year.

The farms number 20 and are registered. Many of them have improved the flooring during the year and one shippon has been entirely reconstructed. Three persons are registered as purveyors only and 31 other persons registered as purveyors from outside the district.

During the year a return from the County Police shows the number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act as follows :—30 samples of milk and 23 samples of other foods, total 53. The samples were found to be genuine, with the exception of 2 samples of milk which were taken from the same source. One of the samples was found to be deficient 5% solids not fat, and the other, 3% solids not fat. This defendant was fined £3 in each case and ordered to pay £4 4s. 11d. costs. This person was a purveyor from outside the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BUTTERFIELD,

Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1937.
BIRTHS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Live 198 (includes 1 monster).
Still 9

Total 207

BIRTHS IN HOSPITAL

Live 77
Still 4

Total 81

DOMICILIARY

Live 121
Still 5

Total 126

DEATHS REPORTED DURING YEAR

Infants and Children under 5 years

Pneumonia 3
Atalectasis 2
Heart Disease 2
Toxæmia for burns 0
Measles 0
Enteritis 0
Cerebral Abscess... 1
Convulsions 1
Prematurity 4
Colitis 0
Drowned..... 1

14

Mothers

Cardiac Failure and
Eclampsia..... 1
Septic Abortion ... 1

2

VISITING DONE DURING 1937.

Birth Visits 191
Subsequent Visits under 1 year ... 1264
,, Visits 1 to 5 years ... 1970
First Visits to expectant mothers... 51
Subsequent Visits to expectant
mothers 50
Child Life Protection Visits 14
Special Visits..... 60

Total... 3600

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Infants and Children 1 to 5 years

Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1
Chicken-pox 49
Pneumonia 4
Diphtheria 0
Scarlet Fever 6

60

Maternal

Puerperal Fever..... nil
Puerperal Pyrexia nil

Tuberculosis Contacts under 5 years :

Pulmonary	9
Non-pulmonary...	12
	<hr/>
	21

Children transferred to other areas	50
Admitted to Biddulph Hospital	1
Attended Chadderton Orthopaedic Clinic	5
,, Oldham Royal Infirmary	3
Test Feeds supervised	5
Minor Ailments treated	6

WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCE DURING THE YEAR.

	New	Consultations	Seen H.V.	Total Attendance
Under 1 year.....	171	— 349 +	1694	= 2043
1—2 years	19	— 46 +	103	= 149
2—5 years	24	— 138 +	309	= 447
Expectant Mothers	30	— 100 +	10	= 110
Other Mothers	90	— 200 +	—	= 200
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	334	833	2116	2949

Toddlers' Clinic Attendance :

1—2 years.....	222
2—5 years.....	177
	<hr/>
	399
Attendances as above ...	2949
	<hr/>
Total...	3348
	<hr/>

Yours faithfully,

JANET FOSTER,

HEALTH VISITOR

